**Approved Minutes**

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 12, 2014
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Bruce Fecteau, Andrea Frey*,* Eric Wigode (Treasurer), Bob Gazda (Alternate), John Brackett (Planning Board Rep), and Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Chair) *excused*, Fred Pearson *excused*, Stephanie Coster (Alternate) *excused*, and Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*

Called to Order: 7:07 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** appointed **Bob** **Gazda** as the voting member in place of **Drew** **Kiefaber** for this meeting.

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

1. Approval of Minutes

October 10, 2013: There were no changes.

**ACTION**

**Motion**: **Bruce Fecteau** moved that the minutes of October 10, 2013 be approved without change.

**Second**: **Bob Gazda**

 **Vote:** Approved 3-0

May 8, 2014: **Jeff** **Goldknopf** submitted a change in paragraph 6 of pp 3-4 for clarification by email to the CC.

**ACTION**

**Motion: Bruce Fecteau** moved that the minutes of June 8, 2014 be approved as amended.

**Second**: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 **Vote:** Approved 3-0

1. Treasurer’s Report

**Eric** **Wigode** reported on the monthly report from the Finance Office. There were three expenditures this month: 1) the scholarship, 2) the fishing derby, and 3) reimbursement. All were approved and checks were distributed. Upcoming expenses will be from the general fund for the recording secretary. We also deposited the Logo Sports check for the Great Bay Half-Marathon.

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1. Committees and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Toni** **Wienstein** reported that the paving project that was approved some time ago for a bike lane from Newmarket to the Newfields line will begin shortly on the west side of 108. They also plan to do the top coat on the previous work done last year for one mile beginning at Channing. We may need to remind the crew not to take water from the river. The water main project is also beginning from 108 to the water tower.

Macallen Dam Subcommittee: **Jeff** **Goldknopf** reported that we received a note regarding an upcoming public information meeting to review the draft Macallen Dam Feasibility Study on Monday, June 23, in the Town Hall Auditorium at 7:00 PM. There are posters of the meeting available at the town hall and information on the website.

Scholarship Committee: **Bruce** **Fecteau** says that **Drew** **Kiefaber** is pleased to present the scholarship at the high school awards ceremony tonight to Anastasia George. There were several very well qualified applicants this year and we hope that the Town Council will continue to fund this worthy scholarship in the future for a student in Newmarket.

Planning Board: **John** **Brackett** reported that there will be an expansion at the industrial park of a 24,000 sq. ft. building at 2 Forbes Road. There will be no water run-off from the site as it sits on sand. There will be a buffer of trees at the top of the road – possibly white pines. The CC suggested that they consider cedars, Colorado Blue Spruce, lilacs, or others which may provide better cover.

1. Chairman’s Report

**Jeff Goldknopf** reportedfor **Drew Kiefaber**. The CC received a request for $416.00 from Mark Leavitt to cover the transportation expenses for the 7th grade field trip to Fort Foster in ME. The CC has funded part of this trip for two years.

**ACTION**

**Motion**: **Eric** **Wigode** moved we make the expenditure of $416.00 for the field trip.

**Second**: **John** **Brackett**

 **Vote:** Approved 6-0

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** will send this information to **Drew** **Kiefaber** for speedy authorization. We still have $866.00 remaining in the fund which has been set aside for future environmental trips/education.

We received a notice of a Wetlands Permit for a Dock from DES for Cynthia Collins at 252 Bay Road. There are eleven specific conditions on the DES approval. This is an expedited notice that it has already passed and we do not need to take action.

There will be a Newmarket Stormwater Workshop on June 25 at 6:30-9:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers. Further information about preregistration is available from the Strafford Regional Planning Committee

**Drew** **Kiefaber** forward a copy of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire newsletter to all members.

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The CC received a check for $400.00 from the State of NH – LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program). We receive this annually for submitting an acceptable report on Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area and the Wiggin Farm Conservation Area. Every year we submit six or seven reports on the properties we are responsible for monitoring. Monitoring includes walking the properties and ensuring that we are meeting the management plan. The CC pays the Southeast Land Trust $275.00 to monitor the Hilton easement. The state requires us to monitor properties they have an interest in. **Eric** **Wigode** will see that the check is deposited.

1. Old/New Business

Newmarket Fishing Derby: The 25th annual Newmarket Fishing Derby will be held on June 14 from 7:00 AM – 12:00 noon at Richmond’s Pond at 60 Langs Lane. We did appropriate $1,500.00 for the derby and the check has been cut to help with expenses. As many as 200 children participate and awards are given for all age groups.

Road Side Trash Clean-Up: **Toni** **Weinstein** reported on the road side clean-up on June 8. It was very successful. Twenty nine bags were filled with only 10 people (including children) working for 1.5 to 2 hours of work. Next year they will try to engage other groups to help and plan a date earlier in May when the growth is not too high on the side of the road. DPW was a great help in this process by providing bags and picking them up on Monday.

Invasive Species Removal: 1) May 10 – Drew, Andrea and her son, and Jeff and his son worked on the Wiggin Farm Conservation Area using borrowed weed wrenches. They added to the pile in the field to be burned this winter. 2) May 18 – Drew, Eric, Andrea and Jeff focused on the front at Piscassic-Loiselle Conservation Area. They also took a fallen oak tree off the trail. It seems that working along the river is proving ineffective. It may be useful in the future to work on the small pockets of invasives in the deep woods. We wish to thank Melissa Brogle at the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve for letting us borrow weed wrenches. They are allowing us to keep two – one kept with Drew and one with Jeff. DPW will help with any maintenance we may need to keep the fields open should we ask.

Turtle Signs: **Bruce** **Fecteau** reported that the signs are up and look great. **Andrea** **Frey** would like to know if we are planning to take them down or cover them. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** will email **Jessica** **Veysey-Powell** about contacting the State to find out when the paving will be done to avoid damage to turtle nests. **Bruce** **Fecteau** believes that we should take the signs down, store them with the town, and ask DPW to put reflector tape on the posts after the hatch to avoid damage during the non-turtle months. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** will send an email to **Jessica** **Veysey-Powell**.

**Bruce** **Fecteau** will get an estimate from New England Barricade on replacing the water removal signs with colors that won’t fade. The correct local ordinance number will be put on the signs and Jeff will research the correct number.

**Bruce** **Fecteau** checked with Diane Hardy about the public access to fishing at the dock behind the mill. The sign is correct – fishing is allowed only from May 1 to June 30 every year.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** received a wetlands permit application from Riverside and Pickering Marine Contractor for a proposed dock at 17 Moody Point Drive along the Lamprey. It is a minor impact of 1,000 sq.ft. with some fill in the tidal area. This is not an expedited form and requires only standard review. It was received on June 4 and the CC has 30 days to make comments to the DES.

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The slope of the ramp must be ADA compliant for the owner of the property who has a spine related injury. The float will be just beyond mean low tide. There was a similar dock just upstream (a picture was enclosed with the permit), but is no longer functional in its current condition. The Lamprey River Advisory Committee should have received a copy of this permit application as well. The work will be done mostly by barge and will not have an impact on the shoreline wetlands.

**ACTION**

**Motion**: **Eric** **Wigode** moved that we support the wetlands permit application

Located at 17 Moody Point Road for a dock with a letter from the CC.

**Second**: **Bruce** **Fecteau**

 **Vote:** Approved- 5 for; 1 abstain (John Brackett was temporarily absent)

**Eric** **Wigode** will draft a letter and email it to **Drew** **Kiefaber** for completion.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** reported that the project begun a year ago to determine a presentable format for Newmarket’s prime wetland maps is now complete. He completed the project with the help of the Strafford Regional Planning Committee. He has provided the maps to Diane Hardy for the town website and will send the CC members the pdf file. The object was to provide public awareness of the buffers, etc., and make the wetlands easier for field checking. The State RSA on Prime Wetlands has changed recently and we should review it to remain current.

**Bob** **Gazda** went to an event at the Town Library where Kevin Martin (a canoe builder) discussed his recent book, *Big Trees of New Hampshire*. The book includes two trees in town: 1) a white oak in Wiggin Farm -Tuttle Swamp Conservation Area and 2) a tulip tree on Maple Street. The book is available at Barnes and Noble.

 **ACTION**

**Motion**: **Bruce Fecteau** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**Second: John Brackett**

**Vote:** Approved 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick

Recording Secretary